

SAC, New York

5/28/68

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. Rozamus
1 - Mr. Thompson

STUDENT AGITATION AT
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

Enclosed are Xerox copies of two letters to the editor published in "The New York Times" issue of 5/1/68. The writers of these letters are identified as students at Columbia University and the letters are critical of actions of student agitators on the campus.

Conduct appropriate background investigation to determine if these individuals are suitable for development as campus sources at Columbia University. *NYC, N.Y.* Submit separate recommendations in this regard under the caption of each individual in accordance with instructions contained in Section 107, Manual of Instructions.

You should remain alert for additional letters of this type appearing in letters to the editor column of local newspapers and take appropriate steps to determine whether the writers of these letters are suitable for development as campus sources.

Enclosures - 2

ENCLOSURE

CWT:jav
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NOTE:

Columbia University has been the scene of violent student demonstrations in recent weeks initiated by various new left and black nationalist elements. There is a continuing need for sources who can keep us abreast of future plans of subversive elements on the campus.

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"The New York Times"
May 1, 1968
Page 46

Sullivan

Lack of Moral Courage at Columbia

To the Editor:

The measure of Columbia's disgrace this past week was not the disruption of campus life by student militants, but rather the failure of moral courage on the part of many fellow students, faculty and community spokesmen.

Claiming sympathy with the militants' objectives, these otherwise well-meaning persons raised up such a hue and cry over the militants' methods as to inhibit serious discussion of the fundamental issues and give hope to those who would wish a complete restoration of the *status quo ante*.

Yes, they say, we agree that Columbia's decision to build a gym in Morningside Park was ill advised; yes, the university's affiliation with the Institute for Defense Analysis does it no credit and yes, the administration has been foolishly unresponsive to campus and community opinion. But, they quickly add, the real question is whether these outrages justify the seizure of campus buildings and the abandonment of due processes and democratic procedures.

Those who adopt this line of argument might consider, however, which party to the dispute was first to disregard the rules of due process and democratic procedure; which party, by insisting upon arbitrary methods, was first to ruin the chances for reasonable discussion; which party, by seeking to play the part of judge, jury and prosecutor, first destroyed the possibility of polite dissent.

They might consider also the likelihood that men of integrity must sometimes choose between right and wrong regardless of the consequences; that law and order are not inevitably equivalent to justice; that those who would have law and order at any price may well be the unwitting servants of injustice.

EDWIN GWINNE BURROWS
Graduate Student, Columbia
University
New York, April 26, 1968

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"The New York Times"
May 1, 1968
Page 46

S.D.S. Assailed

To the Editor:

Bravo for your April 25 editorial "Hoodlumism at Columbia." We agree wholeheartedly. Your criticisms were well taken and well expressed.

By their tactics, Students for a Democratic Society has succeeded in alienating a sizable number of students who are basically in agreement with their professed aims, which, however, end up being distorted by what you call their "degrading spectacle of hoodlum tactics . . . irresponsibility . . . disruptive physical force. . . ."

One last point: Although no one denies the interest of extra-university groups in the gym issue, it is characteristic of S.D.S. to have chosen to ignore the potential dangers that can arise from possible clashes, on the theory that the validity of their demands justifies any means of attaining them. They have created a situation which is now beyond their control.

We applaud your recognition and expression of the deplorable course S.D.S.'s irresponsibility has taken.

JON LECK

EARL JONES

MARY LEEDS

New York, April 25, 1968.
The writers are students at
Columbia, D.

Left-to-NY (encls)
5/28/68
ccw: jad

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